

Message Text

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40

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /066 W

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R 151150 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7399

UNCLAS NICOSIA 1142

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR CY US

SUBJECT: WATERGATE REACTION

REF: NICOSIA 1054, 1098

1. MEDIA ATTENTION TO WATERGATE CONTINUES INTERMITTENTLY, BASED ON WIRE SERVICE STORIES AND EDITORIAL COMMENT. (SEE ESPECIALLY FBIS M091901 AND M081921.) MAIN EXPLOITATION HAS BEEN BY COMMUNIST AND LEFTIST PRESS. HOWEVER, MIDDLE- OF- ROAD AND RIGHTIST PAPERS HAVE GIVEN STORY FAIRLY HEAVY PLAY, IN PART BECAUSE EDITORS RELATE ROLE OF U. S. PRESS TO ONGOING DEBATE HERE REGARDING PRESS FREEDOM.

2. ALTHOUGH NOT ALL NEWSPAPERS REPORT DAILY DEVELOPMENTS, INCREASING CYPRIOT INTEREST REFLECTED IN UNUSUAL BUT BRIEF CYPRUS BROADCASTING CORP TELEVISION BACKGROUNDER OUTLINING WATERGATE DEVELOPMENTS. TV BACKGROUNDER WAS BALANCED AND AVOIDED IMPUTING KNOWLEDGE OF EVENTS TO PRESIDENT NIXON. SIDEBAR STORIES AND CARTOONS PICKED UP FROM U. S., GREEK AND TURKISH PRESS ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE NEGATIVE THAN OBJECTIVE HEADLINE TREATMENT GIVEN BY NON- COMMUNIST EDITORS. EXAMPLE OF LEFT- WING EXPLOITATION IS MAY 15 EDITORIAL IN TA NEA, WHICH SAYS THAT EVEN IF ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN WATERGATE SCANDAL ARE ARRESTED, U. S. INTERNATIONAL CRIMES WILL CONTINUE -- SUCH AS " ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY OF THREE (U. S.) RADIO STATIONS IN CYPRUS".

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3. GIVEN ESSENTIALLY BALANCED MEDIA TREATMENT HERE AND
TEMPERATE REACTION IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS, POST BELIEVES
NEGATIVE IMPACT CAN BE OFFSET TO SOME DEGREE BY EMPHASIZING
EFFECTIVE, INDEPENDENT ROLES PLAYED BY U. S. PRESS,
JUDICIARY AND LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTIONS, AS WELL AS EFFORTS OF
EXECUTIVE TO GET TO BOTTOM OF MATTER. HOPE USIA INTENDS PRO-
VIDE TALKING PAPER AND WIRELESS FILE ITEMS EMPHASIZING SUCH
POINTS.
POPPER

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NICOSI01142
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730543/aaaajdqk.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 NICOSIA 1054, 73 NICOSIA 1098
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Oct-2001 by kuehnbc0>; APPROVED <04-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980211
Subject: WATERGATE REACTION
TAGS: PFOR, CY, US, PFOR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005